

REMARKS

Examiner has objected to the drawing figures as being informal. Accordingly, Applicant has filed herewith replacement formal drawings.

Examiner has rejected Claims 1-2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aird in view of Suto, Weidman, or Schmid, and further references Parrish, Tittl, Stewart, Farley, Blossom and Swanger for illustrating the interchangeability of various fasteners. In response thereto Applicant has now amended Claims 1-2, and added new Claims 3-20, to structurally and functionally distinguish Applicant's pillow case from that of the prior art.

Specifically, Applicant respectfully notes that Aird only discloses zippers to facilitate opening and closing of pillow coverings. Zippers are well-known within the art of pillow coverings in general (i.e., sofa pillows and cushions have historically utilized such zippers). A common disadvantage of such zippers is that they snag surrounding fabrics, clothing, or the like, and thus damage same, and/or can further become jammed through repeated use and/or upon catching the padding, cushion, material or fabric of the object over which the zipper may lay. Moreover, such zippers can often scratch and injure the user of the pillow.

Unlike Aird, Applicant's pillow cover utilizes hook-and-loop fasteners to facilitate the opening and closing of the pillow covering. Such hook-and-loop fasteners are not prone to the above-discussed disadvantages associated with zippers. Although Applicant recognizes that Examiner has provided references to illustrate the interchangeability of various fasteners, Applicant respectfully notes that Examiner has not provided Applicant with any references illustrating combination of hook-and-loop fasteners with such pillow covers, or any references that might otherwise, teach, suggest or illustrate any motivation to combine hook-and-loop fasteners with pillow covers to overcome the disadvantages associated with pillow coverings containing zippers.

Applicant has further amended the claims to recite that detachable securing means (i.e., hook-and-loop fasteners) are disposed on the outer surface or exterior of the pillow case; thus, enabling multiple such pillow-filled pillow covers to be join in any desired configuration to provide a bolster or other cushioned support. Applicant respectfully notes that none of the cited prior art discloses the subject matter of those Claims directed to Applicant's pillow cover comprising exteriorly-disposed detachable securing means for creating such bolsters or other cushioned supports.

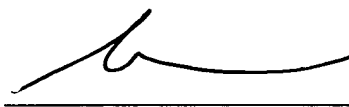
Applicant further respectfully notes that none of the cited prior art teaches Applicant's drawstring in combination with Applicant's various detachable securing means. Indeed, the prior art does not teach, suggest or illustrate any motivation to combine such elements to provide Applicant's product; accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses Examiner's rejections based on any such argument to the contrary. Although Examiner cites Schmid and Weidman for their drawstring teachings, Applicant respectfully asserts that neither Schmid nor Weidman teach, suggest or disclose the structural configuration of Applicant's pillow cover and channel-enclosed drawstring as now recited in the amended Claims, nor does Schmid and Weidman teach, suggest or disclose Applicant's pillow cover comprising exteriorly-disposed detachable securing means for creating bolsters or other cushioned supports.

CONCLUSION

The above-made amendments are to form only and thus, no new matter was added. Applicant respectfully believes the above-made amendments now place the Claims and application in condition for allowance. This Response to Office Action is believed to be a full and complete response to the present Office Action. Should there be any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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